

LN

THRILLING TALES of SUSPENSE

NO. 25 AUGUST

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MYSTERIOUS ADVENTURES

10c



PRIVATE GREGG LANDED ON THE BEACH WITH HIS COMPANY... HIT BY A FRAGMENT AND STUNNED... HE AWOKE TO FIND HIMSELF ALONE IN THE ENEMY COUNTRY! HE WAS AFRAID UNTIL HE SAW THE GIRL WITH THE LIGHT, THEN HE REALIZED HE HAD ALLIES... THE SOLDIERS OF ANCIENT ARMIES WHO HAD LANDED HERE! HE WAS NO LONGER ALONE... BUT, HOW? WHY? READ STRANGE ADVENTURE



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Amazing New Way TO A Slimmer Figure

REDUCE WITH DELICIOUS CANDY KELPIDINE PLAN!

**"WE GUARANTEE YOU
WILL LOSE UP TO
5 POUNDS IN 5 DAYS*
10 POUNDS IN 10 DAYS*
15 POUNDS IN 15 DAYS*
25 POUNDS IN 25 DAYS*
AND KEEP IT OFF!" ****

*How Fast You Lose Weight Depends Upon How Quickly You Order and How Much You Are Overweight

**You Will Always Want to Keep on Eating Kelpidine Candy—and Keep on the Plan—It Keeps Weight Off!

**THIS CANDY MUST
TASTE AS GOOD AS
OR BETTER THAN
YOUR FAVORITE
CANDY OR YOUR
MONEY BACK!**

Now at last, science has discovered a new and utterly thrilling way to take off fat—to lose up to 25 lbs. safely! The secret is that Kelpidine Candy satisfies your craving for high calorie foods! It keeps you from overeating—the reason most doctors give for being fat! It's the best aid in will power, for your craving for food!

**NO DANGEROUS DRUGS!
NO HARDSHIP DIETS!**

Here is thrilling news for fat folks! You can lose up to 25 lbs. in 25 days by simply nibbling on tasty, appetizing, fat-free candy, whenever you are tempted to overeat.

**YOUR MONEY BACK IF YOU
DON'T REDUCE TO THE
WEIGHT THAT MOST
BECOMES YOU!**

Thousands of people were amazed to find that the delicious candy plan actually takes off weight—without dangerous drugs, starvation diet, or hard-to-follow methods. Here's one way to reduce that you will want to continue to keep off fat! The Kelpidine Candy Plan helps you curb your appetite for fattening foods, help keep you from overeating. Now you reach for a delicious sweet candy instead of fattening foods—no more overpowering urge to overeat—no out between meals. Your craving for rich, fattening foods is satisfied with the candy plan. Almost like magic you begin to enjoy this plan for reducing.

**SENSATIONAL TWO-WAY
GUARANTEE!**

This sweet delicious Kelpidine Candy plan is guaranteed (1) to

take off up to 10 pounds of excess weight in 10 days. (2) to taste better or as good as your favorite candy and to be the best plan you ever followed or you get your money back.



**SCIENTIFICALLY AND
CLINICALLY TESTED!**

That amazing ingredient in Kelpidine candy is the most remarkable discovery for fat people ever made. It's been tested by doctors in test-after-test. The results were far better than doctors ever hoped for! The results were reported in medical journals throughout the world! Doctors are invited to write for details.

**HERE'S HOW TO REDUCE
AND STAY SLIM!**

Most people are fat because of overeating—too much high calorie fattening foods—to your amazement you will want to keep on eating this delicious candy even after you have reduced to the weight that most becomes you and you'll keep your weight off that way!

**AMAZING DISCOVERY
OF SCIENCE!**

The Kelpidine Candy plan is the result of scientific research for something that will stop your craving for fattening food and also satisfy your appetite. This delicious candy does not turn into ugly fat, it gives you the same feeling of fullness you have after you have eaten a satisfying meal. It kills your desire to overeat—it kills your craving for bedtime snacks and for in-between meal snacks. It's so safe even a child

**IT'S UNHEALTHY
TO BE FAT!**

Lumbar computers and doctors tell everyone that too much fat shortens your life! Fat people die years sooner than people with normal weight. So be safe! Be Fat to yourself! Start taking off ugly fat with delicious tasting Kelpidine Candy plan!

can take it without bad effects. With Kelpidine Candy all you taste is its deliciousness—you can't tell the difference!

**KELPIDINE CANDY IS
DIFFERENT!**

The amazing clinical tested and proven reducing substance contained in Kelpidine Candy is prescribed by many doctors—Don't be misled by imitation products—Kelpidine Candy is the result of scientific research and is the last word in Reducing.

**DON'T CUT OUT FOODS—CUT
DOWN ON CALORIES!**

You never starve you always feel full with Kelpidine Candy plan—You'll never suffer hunger pains—Your desire for high calorie fattening foods is always satisfied! With Kelpidine Candy Plan you eat the same quantity of foods—you merely cut down on the high calorie rich foods with the help of Kelpidine Candy. You eat as much as you want, your calorie intake will be less—That's the delightful amazing thing!

**YOU GET A LIBERAL
SUPPLY OF CANDY!**

Try the liberal supply of Kelpidine Candy Plan on our 10-day no risk offer. Keep a record of your weight—if you are not pleased with your loss of weight; if you can taste any difference between this candy and your favorite candy—return for refund. Just fill out coupon and mail to AMERICAN HEALTHAIDS CO., DEPT K-364, Candy Division, 318 Market St., Newark, New Jersey.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

You must be entirely satisfied with your loss of weight—This candy must taste as good as or better than your favorite candy—You must get rid of dangerous excess fat or your money will be refunded—Don't delay—You have nothing to lose but excess weight so mail coupon below now!



**THIS CAN HAPPEN TO YOU!
WITH THIS DELICIOUS REDUCING CANDY PLAN!**

Let this delicious candy plan help you control your desire for fattening food! Let it help you put a stop to the habit of over-eating—A habit that's so hard to break! Kelpidine candy contains that new discovery many doctors prescribe to help curb your desire to overeat (the main cause of overweight)

\$1.00

**TRIAL
SAMPLE
SIZE!**

CUT OUT AND MAIL—NO RISK COUPON NOW!

AMERICAN HEALTHAIDS COMPANY, Dept. K364,

Candy Division,

318 Market Street, Newark, New Jersey

☐ I enclose \$1.00, send trial sample size, postage pre-paid

☐ Rush a Liberal Supply of Kelpidine Candy plan. I enclose \$3.00, send postage pre-paid. (I save up to 50c postage by sending payment with order.)

☐ Rush a Large Economy Supply of Kelpidine Candy. I enclose \$5.00, send postage pre-paid. (I save up to 90c postage by sending payment with order.)

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CITY _____ STATE _____ Sent on Approval

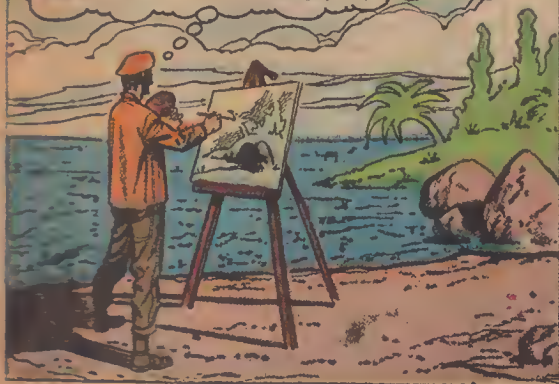
WELCOME TO TORRID TAHITI, FOLLOWERS OF THE FANTASTIC! THIS IS AN ARTY LITTLE TALE, COLORED BY THE RED FLAMES OF BURNING AMBITIONS, AND SMOLDERING JEALOUSIES! WE GUARANTEE YOU'LL YOWL WITH DELIGHT AT THIS EERIE DISPLAY OF THE WONDERS OF A NEW WORLD! GRAB YOUR SMOCKS AND YOUR BRUSHES AND LETS...

Paint the town Red



YOUR NAME IS GEORGE HARPER, YOU ARE FORTY YEARS OLD, AND AS YOU STAND PAINTING IN THE WARM TAHITI SUN, A TERRIBLE BITTERNESS FILLS YOUR SOUL! YOU ARE FULL OF HATE, AREN'T YOU, GEORGE?

THE FOOLS! THE IDIOTS! I WAS THE GREATEST MODERN PAINTER IN NEW YORK, AND THEY IGNORED ME... LAUGHED AT ME!



YES, THE LAUGHTER HAD BEEN THE WORST! CRITICS HOWLED WHEN YOU HAD YOUR FIRST EXHIBIT IN THAT LITTLE GALLERY ON 57TH STREET...

HA, HA! THIS GUY MUST BE KIDDING! MY TEN YEAR OLD SON COULD DO BETTER THAN THIS!

HE MUST BE CRAZY TO THINK HE CAN PASS THIS JUNK OFF AS ART!



YOU WANTED TO EXHIBIT THEM, EH, GEORGE? YOUR MASTERPIECES, AND THEY CALLED THEM JUNK! AND ELAINE, YOUR FIANCEE, HAD SNEERED AT YOU, TOO...

ELAINE, ELAINE, HOW COULD YOU? YOU WERE EVEN WORSE THAN THE CRITICS! YOU CALLED ME A FAILURE AND A PHONY!



YOU'LL NEVER FORGET THAT NIGHT, WILL YOU, GEORGE? EVERYONE HAD LEFT THE GALLERY BUT YOU AND ELAINE! YOU WERE TAKING YOUR PAINTINGS DOWN WHEN SHE STARTED SNEERING AT YOU...

WELL, I GUESS IT'LL TAKE A LITTLE MORE TIME FOR THE IDIOTS TO LEARN TO APPRECIATE GREAT ART!

IT'S NOT GREAT, GEORGE, AND I'M SICK OF PRETENDING IT IS! IT'S TERRIBLE!



AT FIRST YOU COULD HARDLY BELIEVE YOUR EARS, BUT AS SHE CONTINUED, THERE WAS NO DOUBT-ING THE DISGUST AND DISDAIN IN HER VOICE...

E-ELAINE, YOU DON'T MEAN WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!

OH, YES I DO, GEORGE! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A TWO BIT PHONY! I'VE STUCK BY YOU FOR 3 YEARS! EVEN A FOOL WISES UP EVENTUALLY! I'M THROUGH!

REMEMBER HOW SHE STOOD BY THE DOOR, HER LIP CURLING, AS SHE FLUNG OUT THE LAST FINAL INSULT!

WHY DON'T YOU GET A JOB AS A HOUSEPAINTER... IT'S ALL YOU'RE FIT FOR! AND AT THAT YOU'D BE EARNING AN HONEST LIVING INSTEAD OF WASTING YOUR TIME!



A WEEK LATER ELAINE MARRIED A WELL TO DO LAWYER, AND YOU SAILED FOR TAHITI! YOU COULDN'T BEAR TO REMAIN IN NEW YORK! THE BIG TOWN WAS TOO FULL OF BITTER MEMORIES...

SOMEDAY I'LL SHOW THEM... I'LL SHOW EVERY BODY! ELAINE, THE CRITICS, EVERYBODY!



YOU FELT A LITTLE LIKE 'GAUGUIN' WHEN YOU SETTLED AMONG THE NATIVES, EH, GEORGE? AND ACTUALLY IT WASN'T A BAD COMPARISON! YOU TOO HAD SERVANTS, A GIRL AND HER MOTHER WHO WORK FOR YOU...

THAT WAS TWO YEARS AGO, WASN'T IT, GEORGE? AT FIRST YOU'D LOVED THE SOUTH SEAS, BUT NOW YOU'RE GETTING RESTLESS! YOU'RE SICK OF THE QUIET AND PEACE! YOU'D LIKE TO GO HOME...

MEESTER GEORGE ALLOW PIA TO COOK AND CLEAN FOR HIM? PIA WORK VERY CHEAP AND MAMA WILL HELP!

WHO COULD RESIST SUCH AN OFFER? YOU'RE HIRED, PIA!



I CAN'T STAY HERE MUCH LONGER! I'LL GO CRAZY! I'M EVEN RUNNING OUT OF PAINT!



YOU WALK BACK TO YOUR THATCHED HUT, YOUR MIND STILL FULL OF BITTER THOUGHTS! EVEN PIA'S WINNING SMILE CANNOT CHEER YOU UP...

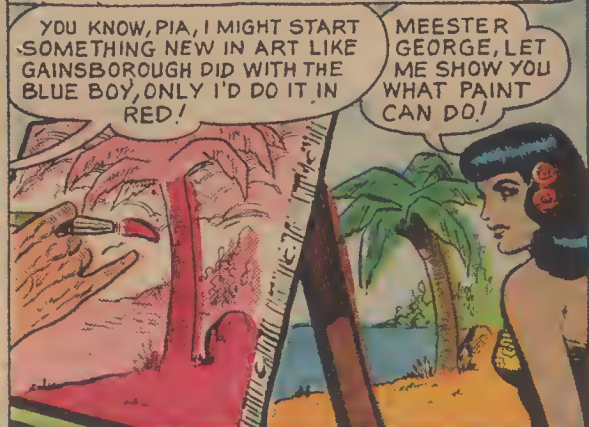
BUT PIA DEEPLY LOVES YOU, WHEN YOU STALK OUTSIDE SHE FOLLOWS YOU...

SHE RUNS OFF INTO THE APPROACHING DUSK AS YOU SMILE GRIMLY, IMAGINING THE WEAK PAINT MADE OF NATIVE HERBS SHE'LL BRING BACK! IT IS NOT UNTIL MORNING, HOWEVER WHEN SHE RETURNS TO THE HUT...



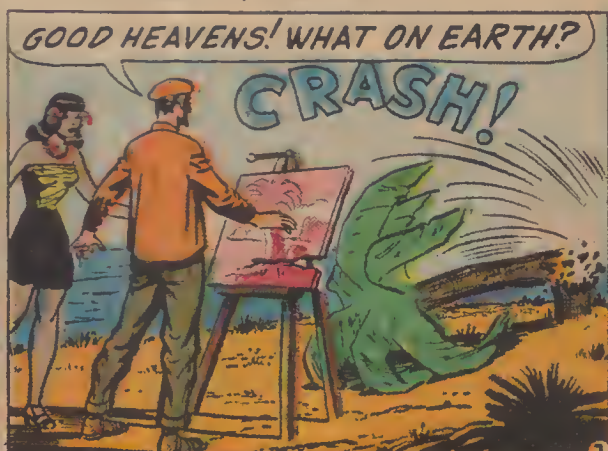
YOU PEER DOWN INTO THE CONTAINERS AND BEHOLD THE MOST BRILLIANT RED PIGMENT YOU HAVE EVER SEEN...

YOU PAY SCANT HEED TO PIA'S TALK OF "SPECIAL POWER," BUT YOU DO IMMEDIATELY SET TO WORK USING THE PAINT! THERE'S SOMETHING IN IT'S RICH TONE WHICH EXCITES YOU...



BEFORE YOU CAN STOP HER, PIA TAKES A LONG KNIFE AND SLASHES THE BOTTOM OF YOUR PAINTING! YOU GRAB HOLD OF HER ARM, BUT IT'S TOO LATE! THE DAMAGE IS DONE...

AND EVEN AS SHE SPEAKS THOSE WORDS, YOU HEAR THE SOUND OF SPLINTERING WOOD! YOU TURN, NOT BELIEVING YOUR OWN SENSES, AS YOU SEE THE TREE YOU'D PAINTED IN YOUR LANDSCAPE COME CRASHING TO THE GROUND...



YOU STARE BACK AND FORTH FROM THE SLASHED PAINTING TO THE FALLEN TREE, AND THIS TIME WHEN PIA SPEAKS, YOU LISTEN TO HER...



SEE, MEESTER GEORGE, WHAT-
EVER HAPPEN TO PAINTING, HAPPEN
TO SUBJECT OF PAINTING, I CUT
TREE IN PICTURE, REAL TREE CUT
AND FALL...
UNDERSTAND?

YES, YOU UNDERSTAND, ALL
RIGHT! IT'S CRAZY, IT'S FAN-
TASTIC, BUT YOU UNDERSTAND!
WITH THIS VOODOO PAINT YOU
CAN BECOME THE MASTER
OF YOUR FUTURE...

OH, YOU BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTI-
FUL DOLL, I ADORE YOU! I'M
MAD ABOUT YOU! YOU'RE
MARVELOUS!



MEESTER GEORGE
HAPPY, PIA HAPPY!

BUT YOUR HAPPY GRIN DISAPPEARS
AS YOU TURN TO SEE THE THREE
GRIM-FACED MEN WHO STAND BE-
FORE YOUR HUT, THEY ARE PIA'S
UNCLE, THE VOODOO DOCTOR, AND
THE CHIEFTAIN OF HER NATIVE
TRIBE...

DO...DO YOU
GENTLEMEN
WISH TO
SEE ME?



YES, MEESTER GEORGE,
WE HAVE SERIOUS
BUSINESS WITH
YOU!

YOU AND PIA AND THE THREE TRIBESMEN ENTER THE HUT!
THEY WASTE NO TIME IN TELLING YOU WHAT IS WRONG...
AND WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU...

FOR A MINUTE YOU HESITATE, BUT AS YOU SEE THE
CHIEFTAIN FINGER HIS KNIFE, YOU ANSWER
QUICKLY...

MY NIECE MAKE GRAVE
MISTAKE, NO ONE OUT-
SIDE OUR TRIBE HAS
RIGHT TO VOODOO
PAINT!

YOU MUST MARRY PIA AND
BECOME MEMBER OF TRIBE!
ONLY THAT WAY CAN TERRIBLE
WRONG BE MADE RIGHT!



OF...OF COURSE I'LL
MARRY PIA, I'VE
ALWAYS WANTED TO
MAKE HER MY
WIFE!

OH, MEESTER
GEORGE, I'M
SO HAPPY!

WEDDING
TAKE PLACE
TOMORROW!



AND SO AT NOON ON THE NEXT DAY YOU AND PIA BE-
COME MAN AND WIFE, BUT YOU PAY LITTLE HEED
TO THE NATIVE CEREMONY, YOUR MIND IS BUSY WITH
PLANS FOR THE FUTURE, ISN'T IT, GEORGE?

YOU AND PIA RETURN TO YOUR HUT, AND DURING
THE NEXT WEEKS YOU WORK LIKE A FURY,
PAINTING QUICKLY, FRENZIEDLY, YOUR WISH FOR
REVENGE DRIVING YOU ON... AND ON...

...AND NOW BY
TAHITI CUSTOM,
YOU PIA, AND
YOU GEORGE
ARE ONE!

REVENGE... NOW I'LL HAVE MY RE-
VENGE WITH ALL OF THEM...
ESPECIALLY ELAINE!



HUSBAND NOT WANT
EAT DINNER WITH PIA?
PIA LONESOME!

LEAVE ME ALONE,
PIA, I'M BUSY!



PIA WALKS AWAY, HER EYES FILLED WITH SADNESS! SHE LOVES YOU, AND DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU TREAT HER SO BADLY! BUT YOUR WIFE IS OF NO CONCERN TO YOU, IS SHE, GEORGE? NO, YOU'RE MUCH TOO BUSY...

FINALLY, YOUR PICTURE IN RED IS COMPLETED! AT MIDNIGHT, LONG AFTER PIA HAS FALLEN ASLEEP, YOU CARRY THE CANVAS DOWN TO THE BEACH...

YOU STRIP DOWN TO YOUR BATHING SUIT, AND TAKE ONE LAST FINAL LOOK AT YOUR PAINTING... YOUR MASTERPIECE...



I LAUGHED AT ME, DID THEY? SNEERED AT ME... WE'LL SEE WHO'LL LAUGH LAST!

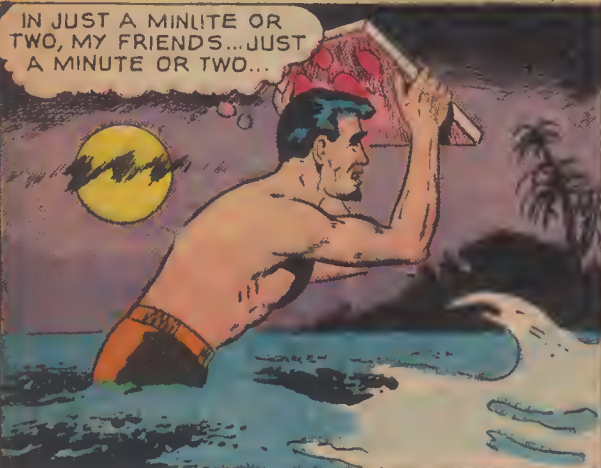


BACK IN THE STATES IT'S ABOUT NINE O'CLOCK! THAT'S ABOUT AS GOOD A TIME TO GO AS ANY, I SUPPOSE... HA HA!



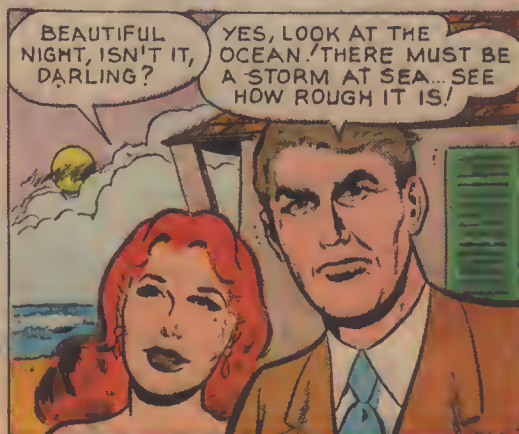
HA, YOU'RE IN GOOD COMPANY, MY DEAR ELAINE! I'VE PAINTED YOU WITH LIONEL SANDS, THE TOPART CRITIC IN NEW YORK! THE MAN WHO LAUGHED AT ME THE HARDEST!

AND NOW YOU RACE INTO THE WATER, HOLDING THE PAINTING HIGH OVER YOUR HEAD, AS YOU WADE INTO DEEP WATER...



IN JUST A MINUTE OR TWO, MY FRIENDS... JUST A MINUTE OR TWO...

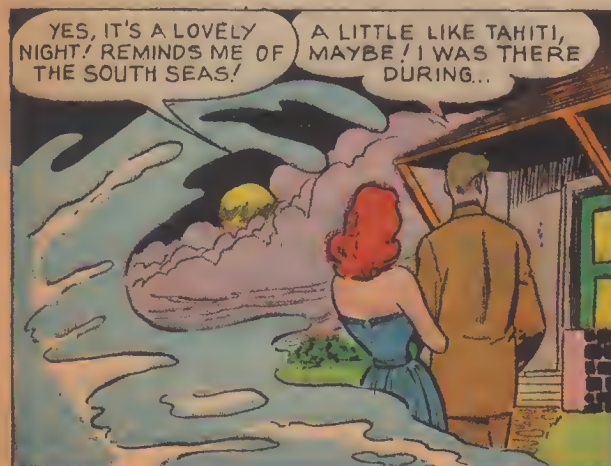
AND AT THAT MOMENT, BACK IN THE UNITED STATES, ON A STRIP OF BEACH IN FRONT OF THEIR SUMMER HOME ON LONG ISLAND, ELAINE AND HER HUSBAND ARE TAKING A STROLL AFTER DINNER...



BEAUTIFUL NIGHT, ISN'T IT, DARLING?

YES, LOOK AT THE OCEAN! THERE MUST BE A STORM AT SEA... SEE HOW ROUGH IT IS!

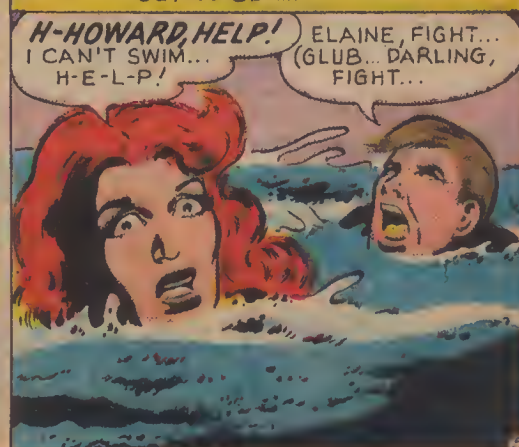
THEY TURN THEIR BACKS ON THE CHURNING OCEAN AND START BACK TO THE HOUSE... PERHAPS IF EITHER OF THEM HAD TURNED AROUND FOR JUST AN INSTANT, THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN SAVED...



YES, IT'S A LOVELY NIGHT! REMINDS ME OF THE SOUTH SEAS!

A LITTLE LIKE TAHITI, MAYBE! I WAS THERE DURING...

WHEN THE GIGANTIC WAVE HITS THEM, THEY DON'T HAVE A CHANCE! WITHIN SECONDS, THEY'RE KNOCKED DOWN, AND THE STRONG TIDE CARRIES THEM OUT TO SEA...



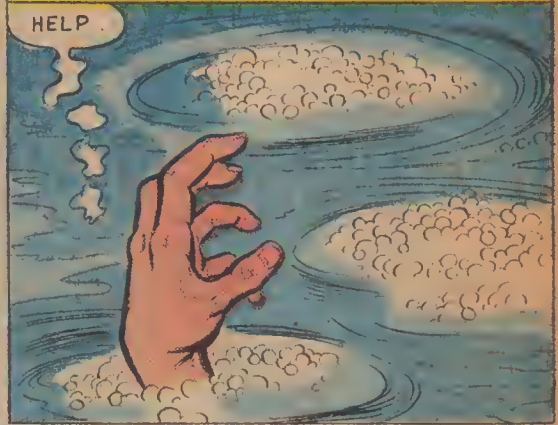
H-HOWARD, HELP! I CAN'T SWIM... H-E-L-P!

ELAINE, FIGHT... (GLUB... DARLING, FIGHT...)

THE POWER OF THE PAINTING ALMOST SUCCEEDS.. EXCEPT FOR HOWARD! HE IS NOT IN THE PAINTING- FIGHTING WITH HIS LAST DROP OF STRENGTH HE SAVES HIMSELF- AND ELAINE...



BUT NOTHING CAN SAVE THE ART CRITIC, LIONEL SANDS. HE IS ALONE IN THE SWIMMING POOL OF HIS CLUB WHEN A STRANGE POWER CLUTCHES HIM- AND PULLS HIM UNDER...



AND BACK ON THE ISLAND OF TAHITI, YOU, GEORGE HARPER, STAND IN THE SEA, YOUR PAINTING STILL HELD UNDER WATER, AND YOU LAUGH... AND LAUGH...



AT LAST, WEARY, BUT SMUGLY SATISFIED, YOU RETURN TO THE HUT. PIA AWAITS YOU, HER FACE TENSE AND NERVOUS...

WHERE, YOU BEEN, HUSBAND? PIA WORRIED, AFRAID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YOU!

SOMETHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU IF YOU DON'T STOP PESTERING ME! LEAVE ME ALONE... GO ON, GET OUT!



SHE WALKS FROM THE HUT SLOWLY, HER EYES UNHAPPY AND RESENTFUL. BUT YOU DON'T CARE, DO YOU GEORGE? NOW THAT YOU'VE HAD YOUR REVENGE, YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING...

HUSBAND NOT LOVE PIA?

NO I DON'T LOVE YOU... AND I NEVER LOVED YOU! AND STOP CALLING ME HUSBAND! WE'RE MARRIED IN NAME ONLY! GO AWAY, YOU LITTLE IDIOT, GO AWAY!



SHE TAKES HER FEW MISERABLE POSSESSIONS WITH HER, AND YOU DON'T EVEN TURN TO SEE HER GO, DO YOU GEORGE? YOU FORGET COMPLETELY ABOUT HER AS SHE GOES TO HER MOTHERS HOUSE AND CAREFULLY PUTS HER THINGS AWAY IN HER BIG WOODEN HOPE CHEST...

I LOVE YOU... BUT YOU DO NOT LOVE ME... ALL I HAVE IS THIS PICTURE OF YOU THAT YOU PAINTED/ I SHALL ALWAYS KEEP IT HERE... SAFE IN MY... CHEST!



SHE LOVES YOU, GEORGE, AND WOULD NEVER HURT YOU... WILLINGLY! BUT SHE HAS STOLEN ONE OF YOUR SELF PORTRAITS TO REMEMBER YOU BY! SHE PACKS IT DEEP AND CLOSES THE HEAVY LID OF THE CHEST CUTTING OFF ALL THE AIR...



...YOU ARE HOME ASLEEP, GEORGE, AND YOUR SLEEP CHANGES INTO THE DEEPER SLEEP FROM WHICH THERE IS NO AWAKENING! JUSTICE WILL ALWAYS TRIUMPH, GEORGE, THERE IS NO ESCAPE FOR A MURDERER!



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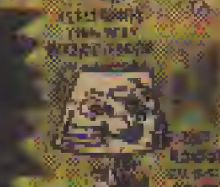
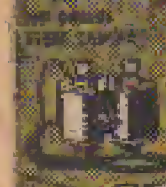
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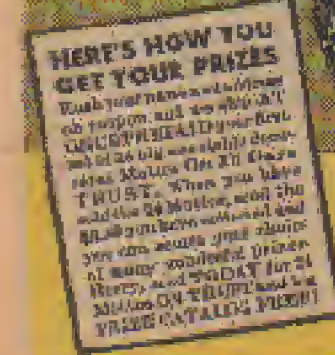
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STRANGE ADVENTURE

Sicily. An island in the Mediterranean. Five thousand years of history written across its rocky face. And now still another episode of man against man was taking place there, another age and yet another war. B Company was the first to hit the beach and feel the touch of Sicilian soil. In moments the beach was a screaming holocaust of exploding shells, machine-gun fire and whistling rockets.

The Navy had shelled that beach for hours and it seemed hard to believe that anything remained alive on it. But the German General von Prausintz had said many times that, if the enemy lands and establishes his beachhead it is too hard to push him back into the sea. The best course is not to let him land at all. Therefore von Prausintz was making the maximum effort to prevent the Americans from getting a toehold and this meant trying to destroy them there on the rocky beach.

But the Third Division with B Company in the lead were crack American troops, seasoned in Africa, and even though they never heard of von Prausintz nobody was going to keep them off that beach. Private Gregg ate sand and kept his M-1 going as he inched forward to take a nest of machine gunners concealed in the rocks. His buddy Racken approached from the other side hoping to get close enough to heave grenades while Baker diverted their fire. A shrieking whine ended in an ear-splitting roar and Racken lay wounded from a mortar shell. Gregg moved toward him to cover him from enemy fire until the medics came up when he heard a funny pit-pit-pit from the machine gun nest and suddenly everything was black.

It was dark when he awoke. He cautiously lifted his head not to expose it to enemy fire but the sound of guns had stopped completely! He looked up towards the rocks where the German nest had been and saw they were gone. They were all gone! The beach was empty except for himself. But wait . . . in the distance some shadowy shapes were taking form as they approached. Strange people indeed . . . looking like soldiers. But not of this time,

not of this age. There was an ancient Greek from Syracuse, a Roman with his short sword, a Knight from the Crusades and many others. And in front of them was a slender girl carrying a lamp that threw off a warm light. The girl motioned and Gregg got to his feet to follow.

Up a rocky path, through a thick little wood — where were they going? Suddenly they entered a grassy clearing and the girl stopped. At the other end of the open space stood the large figure of a warrior from a bygone time barring the way with an up-lifted lance. The quiet light of the moon sparkled on his ominous black armor and Gregg knew somehow that this man had to be defeated in combat before the path to safety could be walked on again. But his gun was empty.

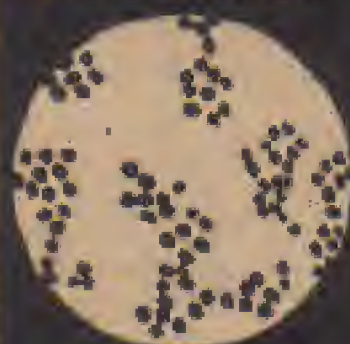
The shadowy figures of the soldiers from history were all about now, waiting for the coming duel. Some of them approached and buckled a sword to Gregg's side. A lance was thrust into his hand, a helmet squared on his head. A great surge of feeling swept through him as he realized the Black Knight was the incarnation of every evil man had ever fought and the soldiers of history were on his side.

A titanic struggle began. The clash of lances rang through the wood and metal against metal ground out against the shouts of a thousand men who had done battle in their lives. A mailed fist smashed into Gregg's face and he fell to the earth. — As the black figure loomed above him to deliver the death blow Gregg rolled to one side and thrust home his thick sword. The evil figure slipped down beside him, defeated in combat! The cheers rose to a crescendo and the girl with the lamp beckoned again for Gregg to resume the path. But he was tired, tired, tired . . .

When he opened his eyes the surroundings were again different. He was in a base hospital, looking up at a white-coated doctor!

"That was a close call you had, son," said the doctor. "You really must have struggled to pull through the way you did."

KILL THESE HAIR-DESTROYING GERMS



Staphylococcus albus



Corynebacterium acnes



Pityrosporum ovale

SAVE YOUR HAIR

Beware of your itchy scalp, hair loss, dandruff, head scales, unpleasant head odors! Nature may be warning you of approaching baldness. Heed Nature's warning! Treat your scalp to scientifically prepared Ward's Formula.

Millions of trouble-breeding bacteria, living on your sick scalp (see above) are killed on contact. Ward's Formula kills not one, but *all 3* types of these destructive scalp germs now recognized by many medical authorities as a significant cause of baldness. Kill these germs—don't risk letting them kill your hair growth.

ENJOY THESE 5 BENEFITS IMMEDIATELY

1. Kills germs that retard normal hair growth—*on contact*
2. Removes ugly infectious dandruff—*fast*
3. Brings hair-nourishing blood to scalp—*quickly*
4. Stops annoying scalp itch and burn—*instantly*
5. Starts wonderful self-massaging action—*within 3 seconds*

Once you're bald, that's *it*, friends! There's nothing you can do. Your hair is gone forever. So are your chances of getting it back. But Ward's Formula, used as directed, keeps your sick scalp free of itchy dandruff, seborrhea, and stops the hair loss they cause. Almost at once your hair looks thicker, more attractive and alive.

We don't ask you to believe us. Thousands of men and women—first skeptical just as you are—have proved what we say. Here's our **GUARANTEE**. Try Ward's Formula in your own home for only 10 days. You must enjoy *all* the benefits we claim—or we return not only the price you pay—but **DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK** on return of unused portion. You are the judge. Send no money. Pay postman only \$2 plus a few cents postage, or save postage by sending \$2 with order. **ACT NOW TO SAVE YOUR HAIR. SEND COUPON TODAY!**

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DOUBLE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

SO YOU'RE BACK FOR MORE FLIGHTS INTO FANCY, EH DEAR DEVOTEES OF MYSTERY AND SUS-
PENCE? YE OLDE EDITORS WON'T DISAPPOINT YOU. STRIKE A POSE, GRAB YOUR HATBOXES, AND
PREPARE TO DELVE INTO A MODEL STORY OF MYTH AND MACHINATIONS OF THE MIND! WE TAKE
YOU BEYOND THE SPHERE OF REALISM AS WE PRESENT THIS FANTASTIC FABLE WE CALL

WHO'S THE DUMMY?



THE SHADOWS LENGTHEN, A HUSH FALLS ACROSS THE DARK SPACES. IT IS MIDNIGHT IN STACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE. THE SEVEN FLOORS OF CLOTHING AND FURNITURE ARE SILENT—SAVE FOR THE STRIKING OF THE BIG CLOCK ON THE MAIN FLOOR. SEVEN FLOORS OF BROODING SILENCE AND DARKNESS... THICK AS SOFT, DARK VELVET...



BUT AS EACH BONG OF THE CLOCK ECHOES THROUGH THE DARKENED CORRIDORS AND PASSAGEWAYS, STRANGE SIGNS OF LIFE ECHO THROUGHOUT THE SILENT STORE.



FROM EVERY DEPARTMENT, THE WOODEN FIGURES SLOWLY START TO MOVE... START TO SPEAK... THEY REMOVE THE SIGNS FROM AROUND THEIR NECKS, CLIMB DOWN FROM THEIR PLATFORMS, AND MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE BASEMENT...

I'M STARVING! I SURE HOPE THE DELICATESSEN DEPARTMENT HAS SOMETHING GOOD FOR DINNER!

WHAT A DAY! THE WINDOW TRIMMER KNOCKED ME OVER THREE TIMES!

THE SOUND OF THEIR LAUGHTER AND CHATTER ECHOES HOLLOWLY THROUGH THE BASEMENT AS THE MANIKINS SETTLE DOWN BEFORE A LARGE TABLE, READY TO BEGIN THE NIGHT'S FESTIVITIES...

SOUP'S ON, EVERYBODY... AND WAIT'LL YOU SEE THE ROAST BEEF WE GOT FROM THE FREEZER ON THE THIRD FLOOR!

YEAH, AND ICE CREAM, TOO!

BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE MANIKINS AT STACY'S HAVE MADE A MISTAKE...THEY HAVE OVERLOOKED A SMALL LIGHT WHICH BURNS IN THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR. THERE, VERY VERY SLEEPY, SAT LAURA GRANT, ASSISTANT BOOKKEEPER, IS COMPLETING THE MONTHLY REPORT...

LAURA GRANT IS NOT A GIRL WHO IS EASILY FRIGHTENED, AND AS SHE FOLLOWS THE SOUND OF LAUGHTER DOWNSTAIRS, WALKING SOFTLY AS POSSIBLE, HER ONLY THOUGHT IS THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG IN STACY'S. PERHAPS BURGLARS.

AT FIRST, WHEN LAURA SEES THE FIGURES BELOW, SHE THINKS THEY'RE PEOPLE...BUT AS SHE NOTICES THEIR STIFF MOVEMENTS, THEIR WOODEN SMILES, THEIR PAINTED LIPS, SHE SUDDENLY REALIZES THE TRUTH...

NOW, JUST ONE MORE PURCHASE TO ENTER AND...WHAT'S THAT? FUNNY, I COULD SWEAR I HEARD SOMEONE LAUGHING...

OH, NO...NO! IT CAN'T BE! YOU'RE MANIKINS!

SOMEONE'S THERE! A HUMAN!

BASEMENT
EMPLOYEES
ONLY

SCREAMING, LAURA TURNS TO FLEE...BUT NOT AT HER HEELS ARE HER PURSUERS...

HELP! HELP! SOMEBODY, PLEASE HELP!

QUICK, GRAB HER! WE CAN'T LET HER GET AWAY! GRAB HER!

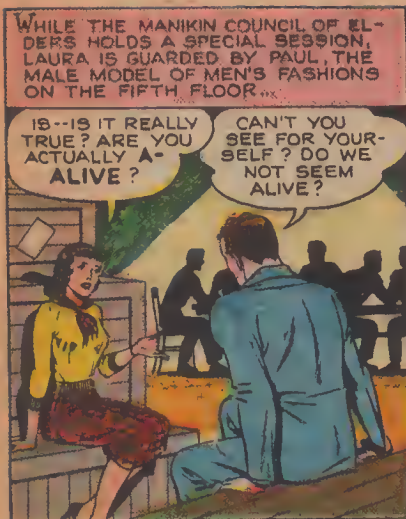
THOUGH THEIR MOVEMENTS ARE AWKWARD, THE MANIKINS MOVE WITH LIGHTNING SPEED, AND LAURA IS CAPTURED BEFORE SHE CAN REACH SAFETY...

LET ME GO! LET ME GO!

OH, NO, LITTLE LADY, WE DARE NOT LET YOU GO!

YOU ARE OUR PRISONER!

HURRY WITH HER, FOOLS! SHE MAKES TOO MUCH NOISE!



IS--IS IT REALLY TRUE? ARE YOU ACTUALLY ALIVE?

CAN'T YOU SEE FOR YOURSELF? DO WE NOT SEEM ALIVE?

WELL, YES, BUT...BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! HOW...WHY...?

IT IS WISER NOT TO ASK TOO MANY QUESTIONS, MY DEAR. THERE ARE MANY STRANGE THINGS THAT HAPPEN IN THIS WORLD ON THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT!



LAURA FEELS HERSELF RELAX A LITTLE AT PAUL'S GENTLE VOICE, HIS SOFT TONES, SOMEHOW, SHE KNOWS SHE CAN TRUST HIM...

W-WHAT WILL THEY DO WITH ME?

I DON'T KNOW, PERHAPS NOTHING, PERHAPS...



His voice trails off, and Laura feels the sharp jab of fear shoot through her heart. She listens as the council of elders debates her fate...

DON'T BE A FOOL, PAULA! WE CAN'T SET HER FREE! SHE WOULD TELL THE WORLD ABOUT US... OUR VERY LIVES WOULD BE ENDANGERED!

NOW WAIT A MINUTE, FRANK! PERHAPS WE CAN BARGAIN WITH HER! WE MUSTN'T BE HASTY!



BUT BEFORE SHE CAN HEAR ANY MORE, LAURA FEELS A GENTLE TAP ON HER SHOULDER, AND TURNS TO SEE PAUL LOOKING AT HER, A QUESTION IN HIS EYES...

TELL ME, WHAT IS IT LIKE IN THE OTHER WORLD? WHAT DO HUMAN BEINGS DO? HOW DO THEY ACT?

WHY, WE ACT... WELL, WE ACT ALL KINDS OF WAYS. WE ARGUE, AND WE DISAGREE, AND WE LIKE SOME PEOPLE AND LOVE OTHERS.



DO... DO YOU LOVE SOMEONE?

YES, PAUL, I DO. I'M ENGAGED TO A WONDERFUL FELLOW. SOMEDAY WE'LL MARRY.

LAURA CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT, BUT AS SHE LOOKS UP AT PAUL'S WOODEN FACE, SHE IS SURE SHE SEES A TEAR IN HIS EYE. QUICKLY, AS IF EMBARRASSED, HE TURNS FROM HER, BUT HIS VOICE IS HUSKY WHEN HE SAYS...

I--I HAVE ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT IT IS LIKE TO LOVE. I--I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SAD THAT I DO NOT KNOW HOW TO LOVE.

OH, PAUL, HOW AWFUL FOR YOU! EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW WHAT IT IS TO LOVE!



BUT SUDDENLY THE TALK BETWEEN THE GIRL AND THE MANIKIN IS INTERRUPTED. THE COUNCIL OF FIVE ELDERS HAS REACHED A DECISION, AND LAURA HAS BEEN SUMMONED BEFORE THEM...

IT IS THE DECISION OF THE COUNCIL... **THAT YOU MUST DIE!** YOU ARE A THREAT TO OUR SECURITY! WE CANNOT PERMIT YOU TO GIVE AWAY OUR SECRET!

LAURA'S PLAINTIFF PLEA ECHOES THROUGH THE BASEMENT, BUT IT FALLS ON DEAF EARS. NO ONE IS WILLING TO LISTEN TO HER. NO ONE LISTENS TO HER AS SHE CRIES...

ARE YOU READY TO HEAR THE COUNCIL'S VERDICT, MORTAL?

Y-YES, I'M READY.

OH, NO! PLEASE, NO!

I WON'T GIVE YOU AWAY, I **SWEAR** IT! DON'T HARM ME, I BEG YOU! I'LL DO ANYTHING... **ANYTHING!**

STOP THAT CRYING! IT IS USELESS!



BUT AMID ALL THE MANIKINS, THERE IS ONE WHO DOES BELIEVE HER... ONE WHO DOES NOT WISH TO DO HER HARM...

ANGRILY, THE MANIKINS WHIRL ON PAUL, HATRED AND DISTRUST CONTORTING THEIR PAINTED FACES.

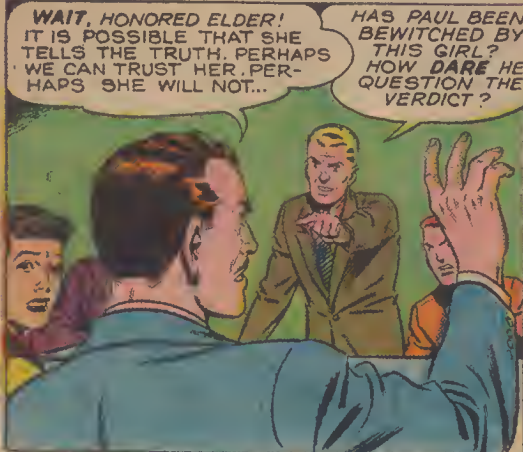
WAIT, HONORED ELDER! IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SHE TELLS THE TRUTH. PERHAPS WE CAN TRUST HER. PERHAPS SHE WILL NOT...

HAS PAUL BEEN BEWITCHED BY THIS GIRL? HOW DARE HE QUESTION THE VERDICT?

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET THE SAME FATE AS THE GIRL, MISTER PAUL?

YOU'RE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE, PAUL... **SERIOUS TROUBLE!**

HE'S A TRAITOR!



SUDDENLY, ALMOST BEFORE THE OTHERS REALIZE WHAT HE'S DOING, PAUL RUNS TO LAURA'S SIDE AND TAKES HOLD OF HER HAND...

HALF-DRAWING HER, HALF-PULLING HER, PAUL RACES AHEAD OF LAURA AND UP THE STAIRS LEADING TO THE MAIN FLOOR...

RUN, LAURA! IT'S NOW OR NEVER!

AFTER HIM, YOU FOOLS!

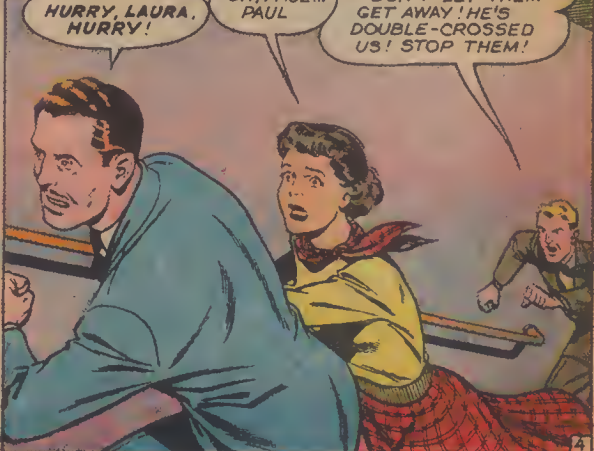
STOP HIM!

GRAB THEM! QUICK!

HURRY, LAURA. HURRY!

OH, PAUL... PAUL

DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY! HE'S DOUBLE-CROSSED US! STOP THEM!



THROUGH STACY'S AISLES, KNOCKING OVER COUNTERS AND TABLES LADEN WITH MERCHANDISE, THE CHASE CONTINUES...

I (GASP) CAN'T GO MUCH (GASP) FARTHER, PAUL!

YOU CAN'T STOP NOW, LAURA! IF WE MAKE IT TO THE FREIGHT ENTRANCE YOU'LL BE SAFE!



ON AND ON THEY GO - WITH THEIR PURSUERS GETTING CLOSER...

WE CAN'T LET THEM ESCAPE! WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM!

HURRY, LAURA! HURRY!



HALF PULLING HER, HALF DRAGGING HER, PAUL FORCES LAURA TO KEEP UP WITH HIS PACE...

LOOK OUT!

THIS MAY SLOW THEM DOWN FOR A COUPLE OF SECONDS!



THERE THEY GO! DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!



FASTER THEY RAN, BUT FAST AS THEY WERE, THEIR PURSUERS WERE FASTER -- HANDS OUT-STRETCHED, THEY LUNGED EVER CLOSER! LAURA'S HEART POUNDED! SHE WAS GETTING WEAKER--THEY COULD NEVER MAKE IT...

COME ON, WE CAN DO IT!

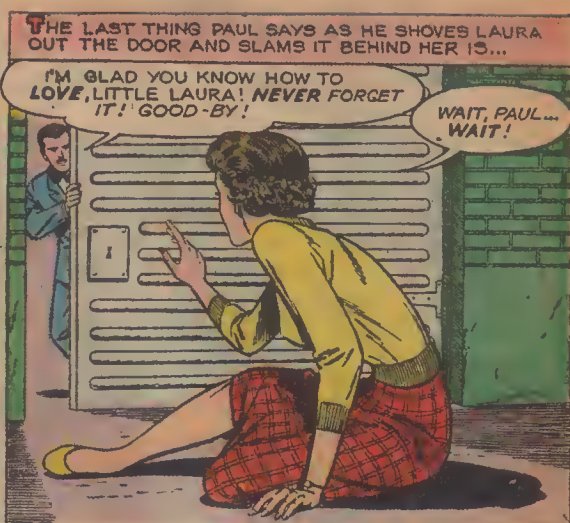
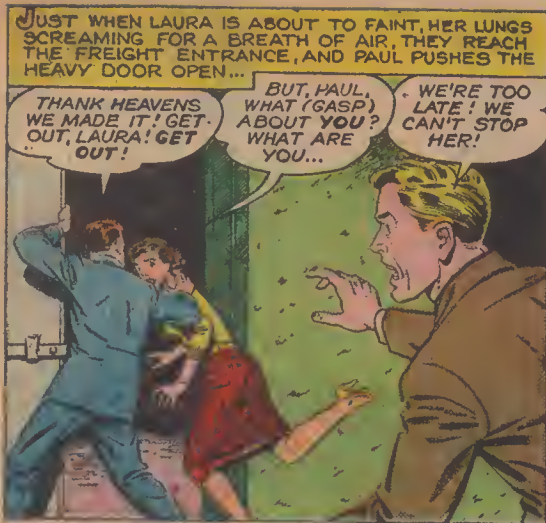


CAN'T -- GO ON --!



WE'RE ALMOST THERE! YOU CAN MAKE IT!





LAURA FINDS HERSELF ON THE SIDEWALK, THE DOOR SLAMMING IN HER EARS, FOLLOWED BY A PIERCING SCREAM FROM WITHIN...



HER FRANTIC POUNDING ON THE DOOR BRINGS NO ANSWER, AND FINALLY, DAZED AND EXHAUSTED, LAURA TURNS AND WALKS HOME...

MAYBE I DREAMED ALL THIS. MAYBE I JUST FELL ASLEEP AT MY DESK AND HAD A NIGHTMARE... MAYBE... OH I DON'T KNOW! OH, I'VE LOST MY SCARF!

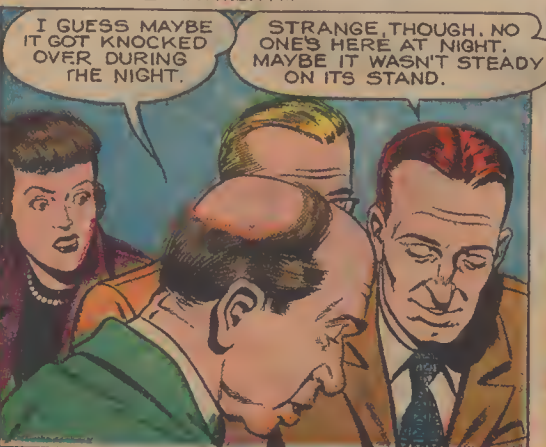


LAURA IS ONE OF THE FIRST EMPLOYEES TO ARRIVE AT STACY'S ON THE NEXT MORNING. BY NOW SHE IS CONVINCED THAT THE TERROR OF THE NIGHT BEFORE WAS MERELY A NIGHTMARE...

OF COURSE IT WAS A DREAM! HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO SILLY TO HAVE THOUGHT... SAY, WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?



SOME INNER FORCE COMPELS LAURA TO GET OFF THE ESCALATOR AND GO TO THE CROWD GATHERED AROUND AN OBJECT IN THE MEN'S CLOTHING DEPARTMENT...



LYING ON THE FLOOR, TWISTED AND BROKEN, LAURA'S SCARF IN HIS HAND, IS A MANIKIN...



The End

1. PAUL DUVAL, AM OF AN OLD AND HONORABLE NEW ORLEANS FAMILY, AND NOT ONE TO ACCEPT BETRAYAL, EVEN FROM A COUSIN! AND SO, ON THIS NIGHT WHEN ALL THE CITY IS FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT OF MARDI GRAS, I FIND MYSELF FILLED WITH HATE, HURRYING ON A VENGEFUL MISSION, HURRYING TO KEEP...

A DATE WITH DESTINY



EVERYWHERE ABOUT IS THE JOYOUS GACAPHONY OF HAPPY VOICES BLENDING WITH THOUSANDS OF HORNS IN A RAUCOUS SYMPHONY OF GAY ABANDON! BUT NOW, AS I COME WITHIN SIGHT OF THE MEETING PLACE, THE HOTEL DAUPHIN, I, PAUL DUVAL, KNOW THAT SOON MY COUSIN, JEAN DUVAL, WILL HAVE SEEN HIS LAST MARDI GRAS...



AND AT LAST I AM HERE, AT THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER OF THE HOTEL, TO MEET A MAN I HAVE HIRED WHO WILL BE WEARING HIS DEVIL'S COSTUME...



NOW, LEST I WEAKEN IN MY PURPOSE AT THIS LAST MOMENT, I RECALL TO MIND THAT YESTERDAY AFTERNOON! JEAN, WHO HAS BEEN VISITING WITH ME THIS PAST MONTH, CAME IN WITH MY BELOVED YVONNE...

AH, JEAN, HOW PLEASANT THAT YOU AND YVONNE ARRIVE AT THE SAME TIME! I'VE PLANNED A NICE EVENING FOR THE THREE OF US! THERE WILL BE DINNER AT FREDERIC'S. AND THEN...

IT'S NOT BY COINCIDENCE THAT YVONNE AND I ARE HERE TOGETHER, PAUL! WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER ALL DAY, TRYING TO THINK OF SOME EASY WAY TO TELL YOU...

TELL ME?
TELL ME
WHAT?

BELIEVE ME,
DEAR COUSIN,
YVONNE AND
I JUST
COULDN'T
HELP OUR-
SELVES...

PAUL,
JEAN,
AND I
HAVE
FALLEN IN
LOVE! WE'RE
GOING TO
BE MARRIED
IN TWO
WEEKS!



I WAS TOO STUNNED TO STAND! I SANK DOWN IN MY CHAIR AND LOOKED UP AT THEM, UNABLE TO BELIEVE MY OWN EARS...

I'M
SORRY,
PAUL...

SURELY YOU MUST BE
JOKING, YVONNE...
WE'VE BEEN ENGAGED
FOR SIX MONTHS...
YOU ACCEPTED
MY RING...

HERE IT
IS, PAUL!
TRY NOT TO
THINK TOO
HARSHLY OF
ME!



MY ASTONISHMENT QUICKLY
TURNED TO ANGER...

YOU TURN THE HEAD OF THE
ONLY WOMAN I HAVE EVER
LOVED OR EVER
WILL LOVE-- AND
YOU SAY YOU
HOPE YOU
HAVEN'T
HURT ME!
YOU TELL
ME YOU'RE
SORRY...

THEN I
SAY THAT
I'VE BEEN
DISHONOR-
ABLE WITH
YOU, BUT I
LOVE YVONNE
MADLY, AND
SHE LOVES ME!



WE COULD HAVE BEEN
MARRIED WITHOUT
SEEING YOU, PAUL!
INSTEAD WE'VE
COME HERE TO
ASK YOUR FOR-
GIVENESS AND
YOUR BLESSING...

WELL,
THEN, I
SUPPOSE
IT IS ALL
OVER FOR
ME, EH?



IT WAS ALL BUT IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTAIN THE BITTERNESS I FELT, BUT I MANAGED A SMILE, AND TOOK HIS HAND...

IT WAS JUST NOT TO
BE! I-I WISH YOU
BOTH HAPPINESS
AND THE BEST
OF LUCK!

OH, THANK YOU,
PAUL! YOU'VE
MADE US BOTH
VERY HAPPY!



I TOLD THEM TO GO ON WITHOUT ME, THAT I FELT LIKE BEING ALONE! SO JEAN DUVAL LEFT WITH YVONNE JEROUX, WITH MY BLESSINGS-- BUT AS HE LEFT, THE NUMBNESS LEFT ME AND WAS REPLACED BY AN IMMENSE SORROW...

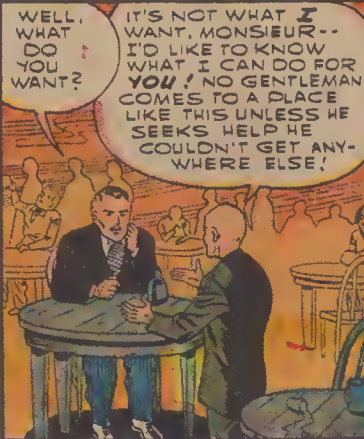
YVONNE...
YVONNE...



I LEFT MY HOUSE, WANDERED FROM THE FRENCH QUARTER AND FOUND MY WAY TO SOME FOUL DIVE NEAR THE WATER-FRONT. I SAT ALONE AT A GRIMY TABLE, WEIGHTED DOWN BY MY SORROW. I WAS SOON AWARE OF BEADY EYES STUDYING MY FACE...



THE OWNER OF THOSE EYES FINISHED HIS DRINK. THEN CAME TO MY TABLE. THAT I HAD NO DESIRE TO SPEAK WITH HIM WAS APPARENT BUT IT DID NOT BOTHER HIM...



YOU HAVE SOME ENEMY YOU WANT TAKEN CARE OF? IT CAN BE ARRANGED--FOR A PRICE! MR... WHAT IS YOUR NAME?



COULD I TRUST THE MAN? HE BELONGED TO THE LES MURTES. HE NAME WAS JAKUES...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID WITH ME, MONSIEUR! I HAVE DONE THIS SORT OF WORK BEFORE! MY PRICE IS TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS. THERE IS SOMEONE GIVING YOU TROUBLE, NO? I WILL TELL HIM THAT LES MURTES, THE CREOLE SECRET SOCIETY, IS AFTER HIM. HE WILL FEAR VERY MUCH... AND LEAVE TOWN VERY FAST!



YES...THIS MIGHT DO IT! JEAN IS NO BRAVE FELLOW! HE CAN BE FRIGHTENED INTO LEAVING TOWN! PERHAPS YVONNE WILL AGAIN BE INTERESTED IN ME!

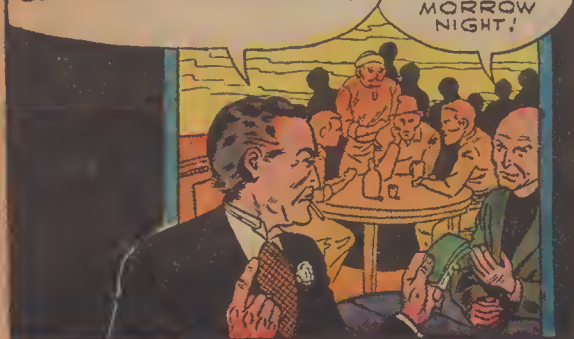


I THOUGHT OF A CLEVER PLAN...

TOMORROW NIGHT THE MARDI GRAS CROWDS WILL FILL THE STREETS! YOU WILL NEVER BE NOTICED IN SOME COSTUME-- A DEVIL'S OUTFIT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE! I'LL BE DRESSED AS A PIRATE! WE'LL MEET AT THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER OF THE HOTEL DAUPHIN... MR. JAKUES!

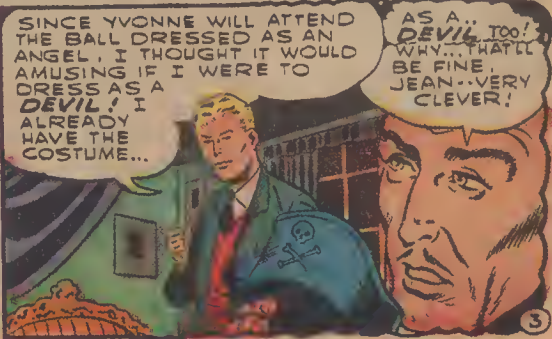


I DON'T KNOW WHAT COSTUME HE'LL BE WEARING, BUT I'LL FIND OUT! WE'RE GOING TO THE BALL TOGETHER! THERE'LL BE A YOUNG LADY WITH HIM!



THAT IS GOOD, MONSIEUR! I'LL BE WAITING AT TEN O'CLOCK TOMORROW NIGHT!

I WAITED FOR JEAN TO COME HOME THAT NIGHT! BEFORE WE RETIRED I SPOKE LIGHTLY OF THE MARDI GRAS AND SHOWED HIM MY COSTUME! I WAS MORE THAN A LITTLE STARTLED BY HIS CHOICE OF OUTFIT...



SINCE YVONNE WILL ATTEND THE BALL DRESSED AS AN ANGEL, I THOUGHT IT WOULD AMUSE IF I WERE TO DRESS AS A DEVIL! I ALREADY HAVE THE COSTUME...

AS A DEVIL TOO! WHY... THAT'LL BE FINE, JEAN--VERY CLEVER!

I AM CONFUSED - THERE ARE SO MANY DEVIL'S COSTUMES HERE -- / AHH.. THIS MUST BE MY MAN JACQUES.. HE KNOWS ME, I REPEAT MY PLAN!

ARE YOU READY?

YES, I AM READY!



I GROW IMPATIENT AS THE MINUTES DRAG BY... FIVE, TEN, FIFTEEN...

IT'S POSSIBLE THAT WE MIS-UNDERSTOOD ME! MY COUSIN IS A STRANGER IN NEW ORLEANS!

WELL, THERE ARE FOUR CORNERS TO THE HOTEL! I SUGGEST WE HAVE A LOOK AT THEM ALL!



WE START CIRCLING THE HOTEL, WATCHING FOR A DEVIL AND AN ANGEL! I'VE ABOUT GIVEN UP HOPE WHEN I SPOT THEM...

JEAN-- ARE YOU SURE THIS IS WHERE PAUL ASKED US TO MEET HIM?

I MAY BE CONFUSED-- BUT, TELL YOU WHAT, DEAR-- YOU WAIT IN THE LOBBY! I'LL PHONE AND FIND OUT IF HE LEFT YET...



YOU SAID THE MAN WOULD BE DRESSED AS A DEVIL, THE GIRL AS AN ANGEL! THEY MUST BE THE ONES! I SHALL SPEAK TO HIM NOW...

NO-- HE'S GOING TO THE PHONE BOOTHS... YVONNE IS GOING TO THE HOTEL LOBBY! PUT THAT GUN AWAY...



... WE'LL WAIT HERE TILL HE COMES OUT, THEN WE'LL FOLLOW HIM TILL HE JOINS THE GIRL... THEN YOU...

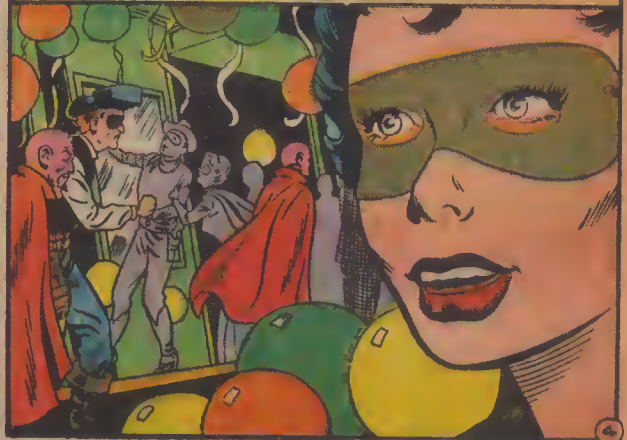
YES, YES, I KNOW MY JOB. MONSIEUR PAUL! YOUR TROUBLES ARE ALMOST OVER...



DON'T TALK SO MUCH, MR. JACQUES! HE'S COMING OUT OF THE PHONE BOOTHS NOW! IT MUST BE JEAN



JEAN COMES OUT OF THE PHONE BOOTH AND WE STAY CLOSE TO HIM... I'M SURE IT IS JEAN...



SUDDENLY -- "JEAN" LOOKS BACK...

NOM DE CHIEN! NOW HE KNOWS WE ARE FOLLOWING HIM -- EVERYTHING WILL BE SPOILED!

ARE YOU SURE HE IS THE RIGHT MAN, MONSIEUR?



BUT OF COURSE! WE SAW HIM TALKING TO YVONNE, DID WE NOT? AND THEN WE SAW HIM GO INTO THE PHONE BOOTHS -- HE UNDOUBTEDLY WENT TO CALL UP AND SEE IF I WAS HOME! THEN WE SAW HIM COME OUT! WHO ELSE COULD IT BE?

HE'S LOOKING BACK AGAIN! PERHAPS YOU WANT TO CHANGE YOUR MIND, MONSIEUR... HE MAY RECOGNIZE YOU!



"JEAN" MUST SUSPECT WHAT I AND MY HIRED THUG WERE UP TO! IF HE REALIZES I AM INVOLVED, THE PLAN WILL FALL THROUGH! HE'LL TELL YVONNE, AND SHE'LL NEVER FORGIVE ME...

NO! IT MUST BE DONE NOW OR NEVER! AH, THERE'S A BIT OF LUCK -- HE'S CROSSING THE STREET! HE'LL PASS A DARK ALLEY -- COME ON!



HE'S GOING BACK TO THE HOTEL -- THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO GET HIM ALONE! WE'VE GOT TO CUT HIM OFF... BLAST YOU, MAN -- HURRY!

WHAT IF IT'S THE WRONG MAN, MONSIEUR?



PAR DIEU, I'M PAYING YOU A GOOD PRICE TO GET HIM OUT OF TOWN, AND YOU'RE GOING TO EARN IT! NOW IS THE TIME -- GO!

BELIEVE ME, MONSIEUR, I'M NOT AFRAID TO DO IT! IT IS ONLY THAT I WANT TO BE SURE YOU DON'T MAKE A MISTAKE YOU'LL REGRET!



THE THUG RUSHES UP THE STREET AND DRAWS UP TO "JEAN," WHO HAS COME NEAR A DARK ALLEY! MY ACCOMPLICE DRAWS HIS GUN... "JEAN" IS TERRIFIED... HE IS TRAPPED...

WHO ARE YOU? IS... IS THAT PAUL BACK THERE?

HE'S RECOGNIZED ME!



HE WON'T GET AWAY, IT IS A BLIND ALLEY -- A DEAD END! THE JOB CAN BE DONE BETTER IN THERE...

BUT HE HAS RECOGNIZED ME! WE CAN NO LONGER JUST FRIGHTEN HIM!



WE GO INTO THE ALLEY, AND WHEN MY EYES BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THE DARK, I SEE 'JEAN' CRINGING IN A CORNER LIKE A TRAPPED RAT! A SUDDEN MADNESS OVERCOMES ME-- I GRAB THE GUN FROM THE THUG I HAVE HIRED...

I THINK YOU'D BETTER MAKE SURE YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT MAN!

I WAS A FOOL TO THINK I COULD FRIGHTEN HIM-- I MUST REMOVE MY COMPETITION FOR-
EVER!

NO! PAUL STOP HIM...



JEAN LETS OUT A CRY! THE BARK OF THE GUN IS SWALLOWED UP IN THUNDEROUS NOISES OF THE MARO GRAS CELEBRATION...

THERE, IT IS DONE!



I HAVE A FEELING, MONSIEUR. YOU'VE SHOT THE WRONG MAN! I SUGGEST YOU LOOK AT HIM!

SO YOU HAVE A FEELING, OO YOL Z VERY WELL, MY TIM D. CRIMINAL, I-- REMOVE HIS MASK!



I REMOVE 'JEAN'S DEVIL MASK, THEN I STRIKE A MATCH TO GET A BETTER LOOK-- AND I AM HORRIFIED TO SEE THAT MY VICTIM IS **NOT JEAN DUVAL...**

I'VE SHOT THE WRONG MAN! **THIS IS JACQUES-- THE MAN I HIRED TO FRIGHTEN 'JEAN'!**

I TOLD YOU TO MAKE SURE!



AS I LOOK UP, PAST THE STRANGER IN A DEVIL'S COSTUME-- I SEE ANOTHER MAN DRESSED AS A DEVIL, COMING OUT OF THE PHONE BOOTHS ACROSS THE STREET! IT IS JEAN! MY BLOOD TURNS COLD, AND I BREAK OUT IN AN ICY SWEAT...

THERE... (GASP) THERE'S JEAN ACROSS THE STREET! THE MAN I HIRED IS HERE! THEN YOU ARE A THIRD MAN... **WHO ARE YOU?**

I MONSIEUR?



SLOWLY HE REMOVES HIS MASK! WITH TREMBLING HANDS I STRIKE ANOTHER MATCH... THEN I SEE HIM AND I KNOW! -- EMPTY THE GUN AT HIM.

NO! ... B-BUT IT CANNOT BE!!

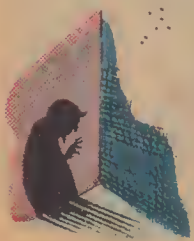
BAM! BAM! BAM!



I SHOOT HIM, BUT THE BULLETS HAVE NO EFFECT..! BUT THEN HE REMOVES HIS MASK-- AND I UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING I KNOW NOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED..



YOU ARE LUCKY, MONSIEUR.. JEAN DUVAL IS NOT DEAD.. I HOPE YOU HAVE LEARNED A LESSON.. IF NOT, I SHALL SEE YOU AGAIN!



THE END

PLAY PIANO THE FIRST DAY... OR DON'T PAY!

Here's Your Chance to
BE POPULAR!



I'M CERTAINLY MISSING A LOT
OF FUN, AND DATES, TOO.
IF I COULD ONLY PLAY
THE PIANO THE WAY
BETTY DOES.
'WONDER HOW SHE
LEARNED SO FAST?
I'LL ASK HER THE
FIRST CHANCE I GET.

MARY, I NEVER TOOK A LESSON IN MY LIFE - BUT
NOW I CAN PLAY WELL, THANKS TO THE
AUTOMATIC CHORD SELECTOR AND
THE **DEAN ROSS SIMPLE ABC METHOD**.
YOU OUGHT TO TRY IT!

IF IT'S AS EASY
AS YOU SAY AND
IT ONLY COSTS
\$2.98 I'LL SEND
FOR IT
RIGHT AWAY!

GLAD I TOOK BETTY'S ADVICE.
NOW I GET INVITED
EVERYWHERE. NO MORE
WALLFLOWER STUFF
FOR ME!



"I learned to play a song in 10
minutes."

• A.C.C. Washington

"Even if one never played a
note it is easy."

• C.G.M. New Hampshire

"Now I can play sheet music
beautifully."

• E.S. New York

Hundreds of thankful, en-
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ballads.

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ABOUT THE
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PIANO - CAN'T
THANK DEAN
ROSS ENOUGH



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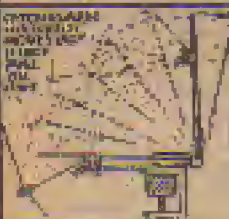
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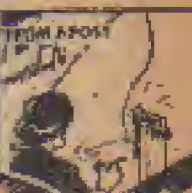
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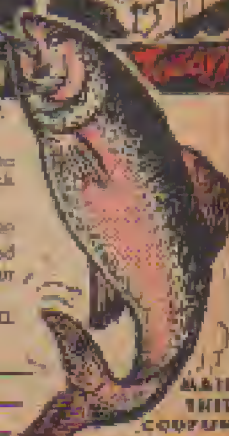
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MATH
THIS
COUPON

BAL MASQUE

The house at Auvincennes bristled with activity of a variety it had not seen in many years. Local people hired for the forthcoming festivities hurried about the enormous rooms and corridors in an effort to have the manor displayed in the very finest setting possible. This was to be the last celebration, for the very next day work would begin on the removal to parts unknown of each stone, beam, candle and bell of the Gironde family home.

"I think I will come to the ball in the costume of my great great grandfather Jacques," said Alexander Gironde to his nephew. "You will recall that Jacques Gironde was Colonel of Napoleon's Twelfth Cavalry and the man who built this house."

"Oh yes," answered nephew Georges. "Is it not legend of some kind that he buried a fortune in jewels somewhere on the grounds?"

"It is just that Georges, a legend," Alexander sighed and remained thoughtful for several moments. He continued, "For a century, as the Gironde family wealth diminished steadily, that legendary hoard of jewels was searched for. Every foot of this house and the surrounding gardens has been probed by numbers of persons equal to a small army. It is regrettable that nothing was found; as you are doubtless aware our creditors are taking possession of the house on the day after the ball. Auvincennes will be dismantled and shipped abroad for sale, unless we produce the necessary funds. This is unlikely to happen since we have already tried for six months to gather the money required to save our home."

Alexander bade his adieux and left for the master bedroom where he began accumulating the materials for his costume.

The ball promised to be an enormous success. Hundreds of gaily costumed guests danced and sang and the sombre overtones were forgotten. The figure of Colonel Jacques Gironde splendidly costumed in the uniform of Napoleon's Cavalry gave the ball

an air of unusual reality. It was obvious to many guests that Alex resembled his great great grandfather.

Around ten o'clock a party game of hide and seek was started; the object of the game was to find a box painted to represent the treasure of Jacques.

"Why bother with a fictitious treasure hunt?" shouted Alex suddenly. "I have the feeling tonight I know where the real one is!"

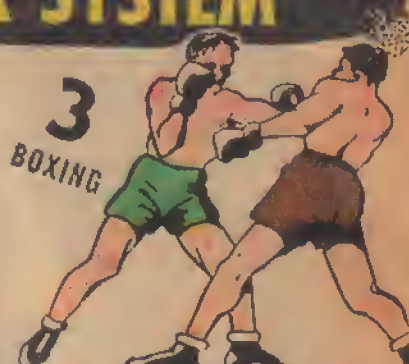
A group of delighted guests swarmed up the main stairway; their host led the way with assurance. A little more than half-way to the top of the second floor he halted and dropped to his knees. In a niche stood a little marble figurine which he quickly set aside in order to run his hand over the black stones of the niche. After a moment a large slot appeared in the main wall and the costumed guests gasped. Their host put his hand in the slot and rolled back what proved to be a stone door. And there under a hundred years of dust stood three open chests stuffed to capacity with jewels and gold coin.

Wild cheering broke forth as everyone realized there was enough money in those chests to save the house. Arrangements were made quickly to contact the mortgage holders that night in order to cancel the work scheduled for the next day. In the great commotion Alex was nowhere to be found. However, after an hour or so a very tired and vexed-looking Alex appeared on the scene.

"Of all the stupid things to have happen," he grumbled to a friend. "For the last three hours I have been locked in the upstairs linen closet, banging and shouting on the door. Someone shoved me in as a joke and then forgot about me. I just freed myself a few minutes ago."

Alex's friend stood speechless. If Alex were locked up all this time the treasure must have been revealed by none other than the original Jacques Gironde himself!

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HEE-HEE-HEE- SO YOUR BACK FOR ANOTHER OF MOTHER SHMOOS' EXPOSE'S ON THOSE OUT-DATED, OUT-MODED, NURSERY TALES, EH, ZEALOTS? THIS TIME YOUR OLD MOTHER'S GOT A JOLTING, VOCULAR, JAMBOREE FOR YOU, THE ZANY LOW DOWN ON THOSE CRAAAZY MIXED UP KIDS

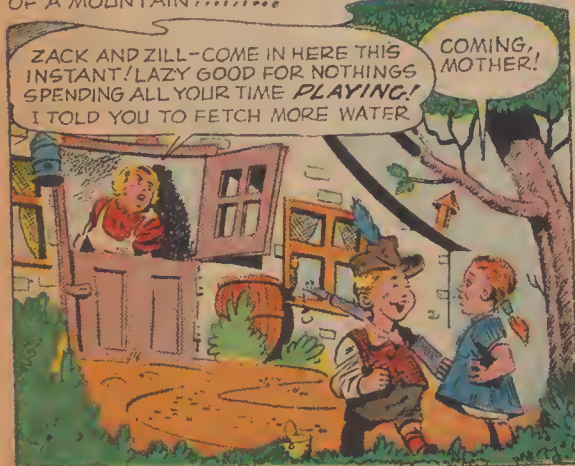
JACK AND JILL



RICHARD DOWSE

"JACK AND JILL WENT UP A HILL TO FETCH A PAIL OF WATER...", OR SO THE STORY SAYS, MY TRUSTING AUDIENCE, BUT IT TAIN'T QUITE SO. TO BEGIN WITH, THEIR NAMES WERE ZACK AND ZILL, AND THEY LIVED NOT AT THE FOOT OF A HILL, BUT AT THE FOOT OF A MOUNTAIN.....

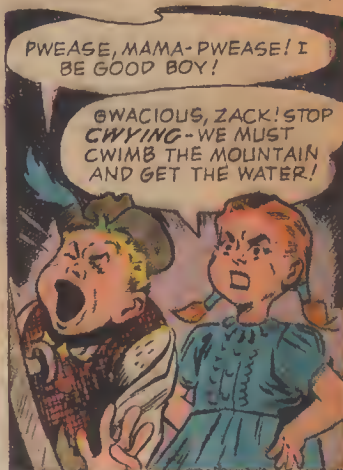
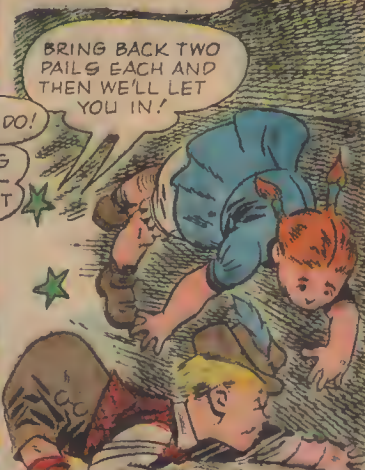
ZACK AND ZILL'S PARENTS LOVED THEIR CHILDREN, BUT IT WAS A HOT COUNTRY AND IT WAS SHORT OF WATER-WATER WAS MORE PRECIOUS THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD...



IT TOOK THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF BOTH PARENTS TO FINALLY GET THE CHILDREN TO HELP, AS LITTLE KIDDIES SHOULD HELP WITH THE FAMILY WATER....

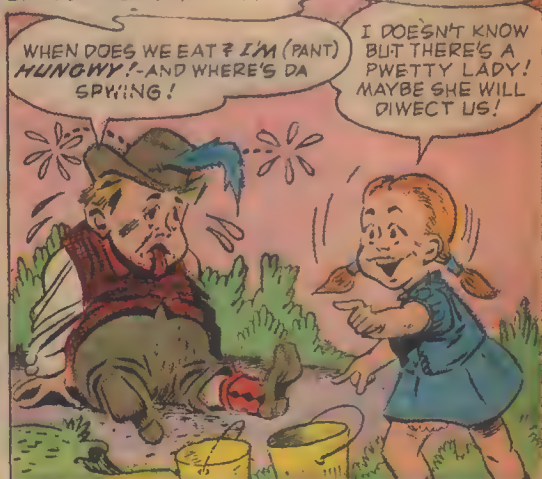
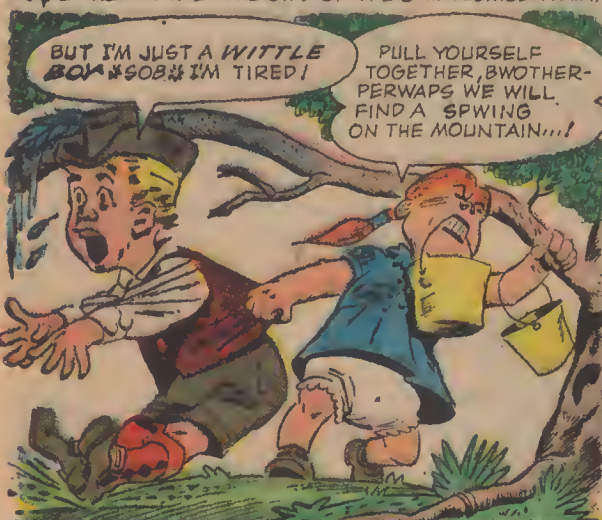
BUT THEIR PLEAS WERE TO NO AVAIL -ZACK AND ZILL'S PARENTS HAD ENDURED ALL THEY COULD STAND- THEY NEEDED WATER....

AS THE DOOR TO THE HOUSE SLAMMED IN THEIR FACES, THE KIDDIES FINALLY REALIZED THAT MAMA AND PAPA MEANT BUSINESS-NO WATER-NO EATS..



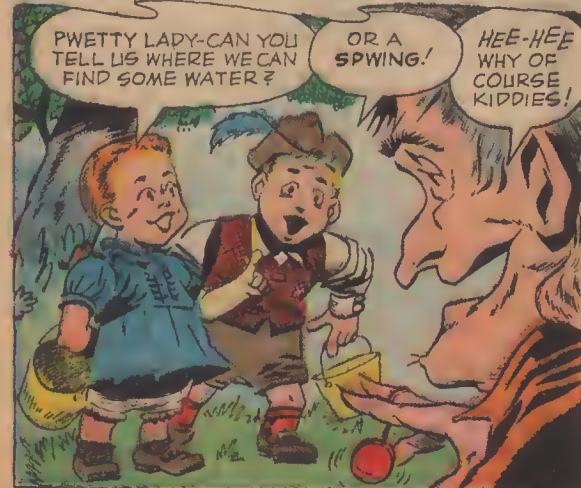
AND SO, PAILS IN HAND, THE BRAVE AMBITIOUS CHILDREN MADE THEIR WAY UP THE SIDE OF THE OMINOUS MOUNTAIN...

AT THE WORD "**SPWING**... ER... **SPRING**...IN ADULT TALK, ZACK'S EARS PERKED UP AND HE STOPPED CRYING,, BY SUNDOWN THE KIDDIES REACHED THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN....



GET A LOAD OF THE **PWETTY LADY**. FELLAS, RECOGNIZE HER?...NATCH, IT'S ME.. MOTHER **SHMOOS**-I WAS SITTING ATOP THE MOUNTAIN WAITING FOR MY FRIEND, GRANDMA **GLUESOME**, WHEN ZACK AND ZILL APPROACHED ME....

NOW YOU TWO DEAR LITTLE **CHERUBS** JUST GO OVER TO THAT WELL AND FILL YOUR PAILS! LEAVE IT TO YOUR MOTHER **SHMOOS**, SHE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU! **YAK-YAK**-AND FIND YOU A **SPRING**!



I WATCHED AS ZACK AND ZILL WENT TO THE WELL AND LOWERED THEIR PAILS TCH, TCH, THE LITTLE DEARS WERE CERTAINLY SURPRISED WHEN THEY FOUND THEMSELVES BEING PULLED DOWNWARD WITH A MIGHTY JERK.....

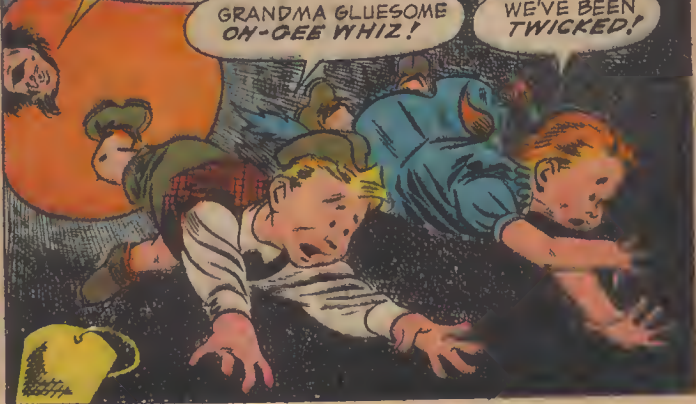
AS THE SWEET DARLINGS TUMBLED HEAD OVER HEELS THROUGH THE DARKNESS, I CALLED A MESSAGE DOWN TO THEM FROM THE TOP OF THE WELL.....



SAY HELLO TO GRANDMA GLUESOME FOR ME, KIDDIES.... AND TELL HER TO HURRY—I'M WAITING!

GRANDMA GLUESOME OH-GEE WHIZ!

WE'VE BEEN TWICKED!



YES, ZACK AND ZILL HAD BEEN TWICKED-ER-TRICKED, I MEAN...AND WHEN THEY LANDED WITH A THUD AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WELL THEY FOUND THEMSELVES IN TOTAL BLACKNESS, EXCEPT FOR AN EERIE GREEN LIGHT WHICH SHOWN AHEAD...

THEIR LITTLE HEARTS TREMBLING WITH FEAR, THE CHILDREN TIP-TOED UP TO THE GREEN LIGHT. TENTATIVELY, ZILL PUT OUT HER HAND TO TOUCH THE LIGHT...AND IT MOVED.....

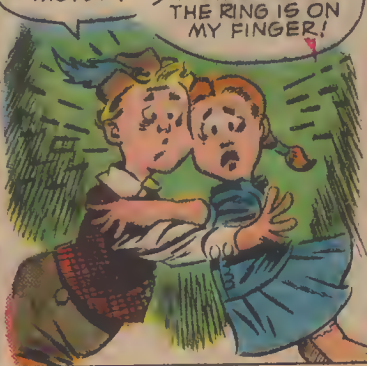
AT THE SOUND OF THE VOICE FROM ABOVE, THE KIDS CLUNG TO ONE ANOTHER—AND AS THEY LOOKED UP, THEY MADE OUT A DIM FIGURE IN THE EERIE LIGHT—A FIGURE AS TALL AS THE MOUNTAIN—WHOSE VOICE RUMBLED DOWN LIKE A THUNDERBOLT....

Z-ZILL-WHERE IS WE I'M FRIGHTENED!

M-MAYBE WE SHOULD GO TO THAT GREEN LIGHT!

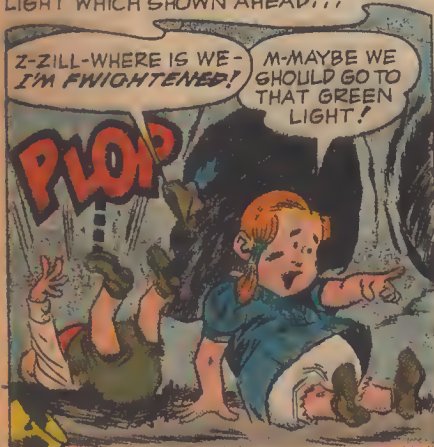
YAAHHH THE SWEEN LIGHT MOVED!

NATCH-IT'S A RING-AND THE RING IS ON MY FINGER!



WELCOME TO MY UNDER WORLD, ZACK AND ZILL!

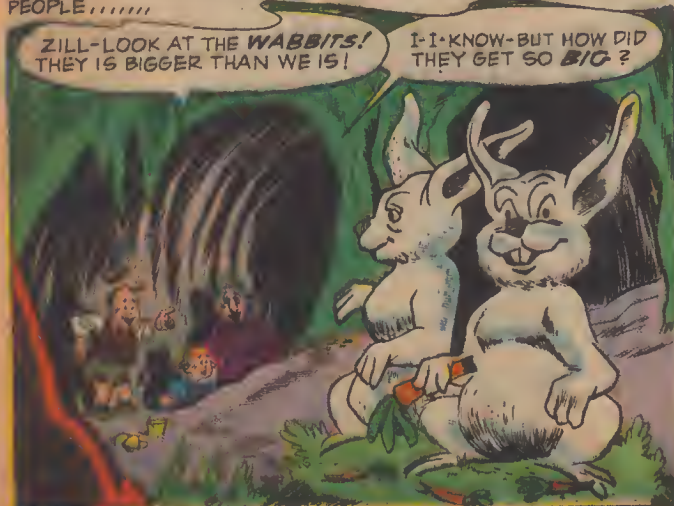
OH-HELP-IT'S GWANDMA GLUSOME!



BUT THERE WAS NO ONE TO HELP THE KIDS AS GRANDMA SWOOPED THEM UP IN HER HAND AND CARRIED THEM INTO HER SECRET CAVERN... FULL OF STRANGE SIGHTS AND EVEN STRANGER PEOPLE.....

ZILL-LOOK AT THE WABBITS! THEY IS BIGGER THAN WE IS!

I-I-KNOW-BUT HOW DID THEY GET SO BIG?



HEE-HEE-I'LL TELL YOU HOW...I DID IT! I CAN DO ANYTHING!

C-CAN YOU GET US SOME GOOD MOUNTAIN WATER?

YES-D-DAT IS WHY WE IS HERE!





WATER-HA! WHY DON'T YOU ASK ME SOMETHING **HARD**? WATER-WHY THAT'S THE **SIMPLEST** THING IN THE WORLD TO GET!

THEN WOULD YOU GET US SOME **PWEASE** AND LET US GO?

YES-I WANT TO GO HOME!



IF I GIVE YOU THIS, WILL YOU **PROMISE** TO BE GOOD KIDS AND HELP OUT AT HOME?

OH, YES, GRANDMA **YES!**



THAT IS WISHING WATER-YOU NOW HAVE **ONE** WISH BETWEEN YOU-USE IT **WISELY**...

AND THEN, THEIR DRINKS COMPLETED, GRANDMA ALLOWED THE KIDS TO LEAVE, REMINDING THEM OF THEIR PROMISE TO BE GOOD AND HELP OUT AT HOME....



JUST GO STRAIGHT AHEAD... THE WIZZLEBIRD WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY-AND DON'T FORGET WHAT YOU'VE PROMISED!

OH, GWACIOUS, **NO** GWANDMA! WE WOULDN'T FORGET!

HEAVENS NO!

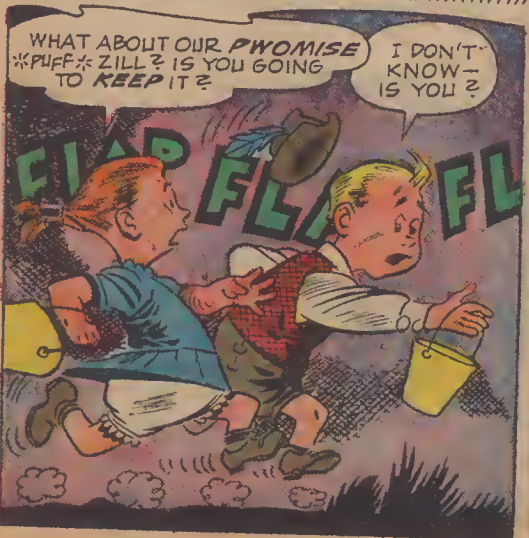
ONCE OUT OF GRANDMA'S REACH, ZACK AND ZILL RACED THROUGH THE PASSAGEWAY, THE EERIE GLOW FROM THE WIZZLEBIRD LIGHTING THE WAY. THE LAST WORDS THEY HEARD HER SAY WERE....



AND TELL MOTHER SHMOOS I'LL SEE HER SOON!

OH, RUN, ZACK-RUN!

THROUGH THE DARKNESS THEY RAN, AS FAST AS THEIR LITTLE LEGS COULD CARRY THEM.....



WHAT ABOUT OUR **PWOMISE** *PUFF* ZILL? IS YOU GOING TO **KEEP** IT?

I DON'T KNOW- IS YOU?



I IS NOT! I *PUFF* HATE TO WORK... AND *PUFF* AND I'M **NOT** GOING TO!

GOOD! NEITHER *PUFF* IS I! **LOOK**-THE WIZZLEBIRD-HE'S FADING OUT!

ON AND ON, THEY RACED, UNTIL SUDDENLY THEY FOUND THEMSELVES IN TOTAL BLACKNESS...

Z-ZILL-THE BIRD IS GONE-WE IS LOST!

I-I KNOW!

BUT AN INSTANT LATER THEY PLUNGED INTO BRILLIANT SUNLIGHT AND YOU REMEMBER THE END OF THE RHYME, DON'T YOU, CHUMS... JACK FELL DOWN AND BROKE HIS CROWN, AND JILL CAME TUMBLING AFTER,.....

LOOK OUT BELOW!

AAAH!

BUT THAT ISN'T WHERE THE STORY ENDS, DEVOTED DEVOTEES! NO, INDEED... WHEN JACK AND JILL, ER... ZACK AND ZILL REACHED THE FOOT OF THE HILL THEY FOUND THEIR MAMA AND PAPA AWAITING THEM...

WELL, SO YOUR BACK AT LAST!

IT CERTAINLY TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH!

THE WATER IS ALMOST ALL SPILLED OUT-WE IS ONLY GOT A DWOP LEFT!

WHEN THE KID'S PARENTS SEE THE ALMOST EMPTY PAIL, THEY'RE FURIOUS... BUT THE KIDS REMEMBER THEIR WISH....

GONE ALL DAY...AND YOU BRING BACK THREE DROPS OF WATER!

NO, PAPA, PWEASE DON'T!

YOWEE-(GOB) I WISH DA PAIL WOULD NEVER BE EMPTY... I WISH IT WOULD ALWAYS OVERFLOW!

AND SUDDENLY THE PAIL IS FULL, AND OVERFLOWING, ZACK'S WISH HAS COME TRUE, THE ONE WISH GRANTED HIM BY GRANDMA BLUEGOME, AT FIRST THE FAMILY IS DELIGHTED... BUT THE PAILS KEPT FLOWING AND FLOWING...

STOP IT, FATHER! WE'LL ALL BE DROWNED!

I CAN'T STOP IT MOTHER-WE'LL HAVE TO FLEE! HURRY!

GWACIOUS-WE IS GOT ENOUGH WATER TO FLOAT A BATTLESHIP!

WITHIN A WEEK, THE ENTIRE LITTLE COMMUNITY IS OVERCOME WITH WATER....

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO-THIS IS TERRIBLE!

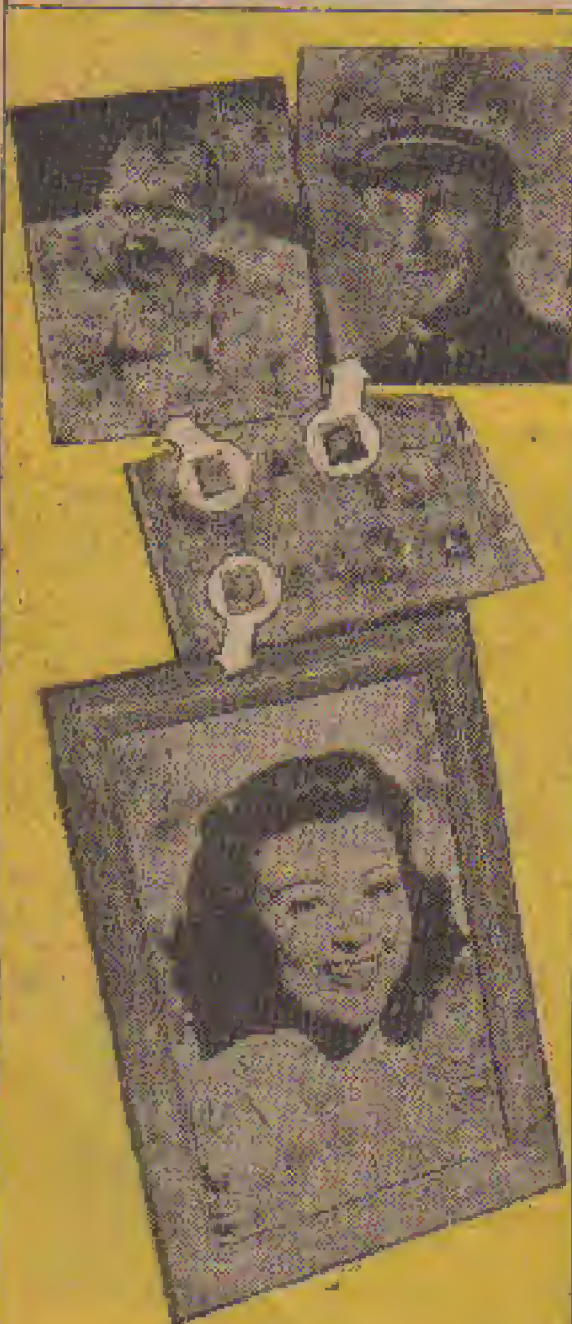
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO- JUST HAVE TO LEAVE!

THAT WAS MANY YEARS AGO, DEAR FRIENDS, IN A COUNTRY YOU NEVER HEARD OF FAR BACK IN THE HILLS OF AFRICA...AND NOW IT IS 1965, AND WE SWITCH YOU TO DARKEST AFRICA, TO VICTORIA FALLS, THE HIGHEST WATERFALL IN THE WORLD,.....

HEE-HEE, THAT'S

RIGHT, CHUMS, FOR YEARS SOME POOR MISGUIDED FOOLS HAVE THOUGHT VICTORIA FALLS WAS FED BY A RIVER...BUT THEY'RE WRONG...NATCH, ZACK AND ZILL'S PAIL IS THE SOURCE OF VICTORIA FALLS
HEE-HEE-BYE ZANY ZEALOTS, SEE YOU NEXT ISSUE... TheEnd (E)

FREE



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Fill out description below. Mark back of envelope 1 and 2.

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Color _____

Oil _____

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